

From: Tom Davis
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/6/01 9:57pm
Subject: Views on Microsoft and Monopolistic Practices

Dear Sir or Madam,

In this email I wish to present my view of Microsoft as it relates to monopolistic practices, the world of computing, and our society. First off, let me say that my opinion of Microsoft is that held with the highest regards. I salute the company for many things, including the advancement of the Internet, helping less knowledgeable people be able to participate in computing, and helping businesses to put their best foot forward with products like Office and the Windows OS. Next, let me say that much of my success thus far can be attributed to my understanding of Microsoft technologies, like ASP. Currently, I am a Senior Web Developer for Northrup Gruman IT contracting to the United States Air Force. In addition, I run a full service Managed Web Development and Hosting company from my home in Yukon, Oklahoma.

I would like to present what I think is a realistic view of Microsoft and how it impacts our society. First, let's take a look at security. I believe that Microsoft's Flagship Server (IIS) is one of the best static and dynamic content web servers on the market. The problem is that proper testing has not been performed on the product. It is obvious with the amount of patches that need to be applied on an all to frequent basis. From a small business standpoint, I no longer host any of my clients on IIS. Bottom line, I don't trust it's stability. Over the last year, I have been loyal to Redhat Linux and have reaped the rewards. First, Linux introduces you to REAL computing. For a very low cost you are provided with Enterprise level software that is as reliable as the Energizer Bunny. So if you ask me what the best enterprise solution is for our military, school system, and government agencies at all levels, my answer is Linux. You get a better product for a fraction of the cost, which enables you to spend money on things that count like giving pay raises to our nation's teachers, instead of paying another licensing fee.

Forgive me for being a huge sports fan and using an example that relates to sports, but Microsoft reminds me of the star athlete that keeps asking for more money. For fear of what will happen without him/her, the organization keeps paying out more money. Soon, the organization is headed for failure due to lack of funds for new talent. Ever heard of the Dallas Cowboys? While it is true that they won three superbows in fours years over the last decade, it is also true that now that are fighting to stay afloat. I ask you, why is that? The high price they paid for some of their athletes, namely Deon Sanders.

The point is this, Microsoft is Deon Sanders. You might wonder, if Microsoft is Deon Sanders, who is Linux? The answer is Roy Williams of the OU Sooners. If you are not familiar with who he is, you should watch this

kid play sometime. He is incredible.

Thanks for your time,
Tom Davis
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